

STATEMENT SHOWING MINIMUM NOMINAL WEEKLY RATES OF WAGE AND ORDINARY HOURS OF  
LABOUR FOR WORKERS IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
30TH JUNE, 1955.

(Rates of Wage are quoted from the latest award, Determination or Agreement operative  
 On 30th June, 1955.)

ADULT MALES

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>WOOD, FURNITURE, SAWMILLS, ETC.</u>				
<u>COOPING</u> -	s. d.		s. d.	
Cooper	318/-	40	323/-	40
<u>FURNITURE</u> -				
Cabinet Maker	315/-	"	310/-	"
Chairmaker	315/-	"	310/-	"
Trench Polisher	315/-	"	310/-	"
Wood Carver	315/-	"	310/-	"
Wood Machinist	315/-	"	310/-	"
<u>SAMPLING &amp; TIMBER YARDS</u> -			265/- to 310/-	"
Box and Case Maker	283/-	"	275/-	"
Labourer	257/-	"	249/-	"
Machinist -				
Boult's Carver	313/-	"	305/-	"
Moulding	264/6 & 313/-	"	256/6 & 305/-	"
Planing	256/- & 313/-	"	248/- & 305/-	"
Shaping	313/-	"	305/-	"
Orderman	291/-	"	283/-	"
Sawyer -				
Band or Jig	285/6 to 310/-	"	277/6 to 310/-	"
Circular	288/- & 310/-	"	280/- & 302/-	"
Tallyman	286/-	"	279/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING, SMALL WORKS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOILERMAKING</u> -				
Boilermaker	318/-	40	310/-	40
Helper	266/-	"	258/-	"
Labourer	252/-	"	244/-	"
<u>BRASSWORKING</u> -				
Finisher	297/- & 318/-	"	289/- & 310/-	"
Moulder	271/- to 318/-	"	263/- to 310/-	"
<u>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION</u> -				
Electrical Fitter	324/-	"	310/-	"
Linesman	316/-	"	292/6	"
Electrical Mechanic	324/-	"	310/-	"
<u>ELECTRIC SUPPLY</u> -				
Electrical fitter *	355/-	"	327/-	"
Instrument Maker *	379/-	"	352/-	"
Linesman	340/- & 355/-	"	294/6 to 306/6	"
Substation maintenance fitter	370/-	"	327/-	"
<u>ENGINEERING</u> -				
Blacksmith	320/6	"	312/6	"
Brassfinisher	293/- & 318/-	"	285/- & 310/-	"
Coppersmith	320/6	"	312/6	"
Fitter	318/-	"	310/-	"

\* Additional Amount of 15/- per week payable if working at power stations.

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS. DULT DATES 30TH JUNE 1955 (Cont'd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY			MELBOURNE		
	Rates of Wage		Hours	Rates of Wage		Hours
<u>ENGINEERING - (Cont'd.)</u>	s.	d.		s.	d.	
Labourer	252/-		40	247/-		40
Patternmaker	340/6		"	332/6		"
Shaper	293/- & 318/-		"	285/- & 310/-		"
Striker	266/- & 270/6		"	258/- & 262/6		"
Turner	318/-		"	310/-		"
<u>FOUNDRY -</u>						
Coresmaker - machine	271/- to 293/-		"	263/- to 295/-		"
- jobbing	295/-		"	287/-		"
Crosser	271/- to 290/6		"	263/- to 287/6		"
Furnaceman	280/6 to 288/-		"	277/6 to 292/-		"
Moulder - machine	271/- to 293/-		"	263/- to 285/-		"
- jobbing	318/-		"	310/-		"
<u>SHEET METAL WORKING -</u>						
Canister Maker	273/-		"	265/-		"
Machinist	265/-		"	259/-		"
Solderer	265/- & 273/-		"	257/- & 265/-		"
Sheet Metal Worker 1st class	318/-		"	297/-		"
Sheet Metal Worker 2nd Class	293/-		"	272/-		"
	<u>FOOD, DRINK, ETC.</u>					
<u>BAKING (BREAD) -</u>						
Board Hand	303/-		40	336/2		38
Bread Carter (1 horse)	291/-		"	289/6		40
Ovensman	311/6		"	336/2		38
Single Hand	308/-		"	359/6		38
<u>BAKING (BISCUITS AND COOKIES) -</u>						
Baker	275/6		"	287/-		40
General Labourer	249/-		"	257/-		"
Mixer	264/- & 268/-		"	287/-		"
<u>BREWING -</u>						
Cellarman	285/- & 292/-		"	281/9		"
Driver (Motor, 3 tons)	299/-		"	290/9		"
Labourer	285/-		"	278/-		"
Malt Hand	235/-		"	283/-		"
Towerman	292/-		"	231/-		"
<u>BUTCHERING (RETAIL) -</u>						
Carter (1 horse)	278/-		"	258/6		"
General Butcher	303/-		"	295/-		"
Shopman	303/-		"	295/-		"
Smallgoodsman	303/-		"	295/-		"
<u>CONFECTIONERY -</u>						
Confectioner (Grade I)	300/-		"	292/-		"
Storeman	263/-		"	280/6		"
<u>JAM MAKING -</u>						
General Labourer	262/-		"	262/-		"
Solderer	267/-		"	267/-		"
<u>MEAT PACKING -</u>						
Capper	295/6		"	315/-		"
Guillotine Hand	273/-		"	284/-		"
Jokerman	283/-		"	311/-		"
Packer	273/-		"	311/-		"
Seamer	295/6		"	315/-		"
<u>MILLING (FLOUR) -</u>						
Miller (Shift)	312/6 to 350/-		"	312/6 to 350/-		"
Packorman	258/-		"	298/-		"
Purifierman	292/6		"	292/6		"
Scuttermen	292/6		"	292/6		"
Storeman (Head)	295/- & 303/-		"	295/- & 303/-		"
Toppman	292/6		"	292/6		"
<u>PASTRY COOKING -</u>						
Pastor	276/-		"	255/-		"
Pastrycook	310/-		"	306/-		"

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WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES 30TH JUNE 1955 (Contd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage	Hours	Rates of Wage	Hours
<u>CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOOTMAKING -</u>	s. d.		s. d.	
- Bootmaker	288/-	40	288/-	40
<u>TAILORING (READY-MADE) -</u>				
Cutter	368/-	"	310/-	"
Presser	287/-	"	287/-	"
Tailor	296/-	"	296/-	"
<u>TAILORING (RENT-TO-MAKE) -</u>				
Cutter	300/-	"	300/-	"
Presser	287/-	"	287/-	"
Tailor	296/-	"	296/-	"
Trimmer	287/-	"	287/-	"
<u>TEXTILE WORKING -</u>				
(Woollen Mills) -				
Carder	265/-	"	265/-	"
Woolcomber	270/-	"	270/-	"
Labourer (General)	241/-	"	241/-	"
Scourer (Wool)	270/- to 277/6	"	270/- to 277/6	"
Spinner	265/-	"	265/-	"
Loom Tamer	258/- to 268/-	"	258/- to 268/-	"
Warper (Plain)	267/-	"	267/-	"
<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, BINDING, ETC.</u>				
<u>BOOKBINDING -</u>				
Finisher	318/-	40	310/-	40
Bookbinder	318/-	"	310/-	"
Paper Ruler	318/-	"	310/-	"
<u>PRINTING (DAILY AND WEEKLY PRESS) -</u>				
Compositor (Machine) -				
Day Work	377/6 to 395/-	"	372/6	38
Night Work	397/6 to 415/-	"	397/6	"
Machinist (First Hand) -				
Day Work	341/6 to 349/-	"	357/6	40
Night Work	261/6 to 369/-	"	322/6	38
Publisher -				
Day Work	316/6 to 326/6	"	309/- & 311/6	40
Night Work	336/6 to 346/6	"	336/- & 336/6	38
Reader -				
Day Work	349/6 & 359/6	"	353/-	40
Night Work	369/6 & 379/6	"	383/-	38
Stereotyper -				
Day Work	341/6 to 350/-	"	353/-	39
Night Work	361/6 to 370/-	"	373/-	38
<u>PRINTING (JOB PRINTING OFFICES) -</u>				
Compositor	318/- to 340/6	"	310/- to 332/6	40
Linotype Operator	340/6	"	332/6	"
Machinist	318/-	"	310/-	"
Reader	325/6	"	317/6	"
Stereotyper	318/-	"	310/-	"
<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING</u>				
<u>BRICKMAKING -</u>				
Burner	273/- & 279/-	40	288/-	40
Pitman	290/-	"	302/6 & 308/6	"
Drawer	295/6	"	287/6 to 300/-	"
Trucker	287/-	"	282/-	"
Setter	295/6	"	287/6 & 300/-	"
<u>VEHICLE BUILDING</u>				
Bodymaker, 1st Class	318/-	"	310/-	"
Labourer	246/-	"	238/-	"
Painter	271/6 to 310/6	"	263/6 to 302/6	"
Spring maker	318/-	"	310/-	"
Trimmer	293/- & 310/6	"	285/- & 302/6	"
Wheelwright	318/-	"	310/-	"

WEEKLY WAGE RATES AND HOURS, ADULT MALES 30TH JUNE, 1955 (Contd.)

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY			MELBOURNE		
	Rates of Wage		Hours	Rates of Wage		Hours
	s.	d.		s.	d.	
<u>OTHER MANUFACTURING (Contd.)</u>						
<u>GAS-MAKING AND SUPPLY -</u>						
Coke Trimmer	271/-		40	258/-		40
Gasfitter	332/-		"	317/6		"
Labourer	258/-		"	252/-		"
Motor Tester	272/- & 294/-		"	267/-		"
Service Layer	299/-		"	279/6		"
Service Layer's Labourer	268/-		"	255/-		"
Stoker	289/-		"	277/- & 287/6		"
<u>JEWELLERY -</u>						
Chainmaker	293/-		"	312/-		"
Mounter	275/- to 301/-		"	267/- to 327/-		"
Setter	293/- to 301/-		"	299/6 to 327/-		"
<u>LEATHER AND CANVAS WORK</u>						
Canvas Worker	283/-		"	275/-		"
Leather Worker	295/-		"	267/-		"
<u>TANNING AND CURRYING -</u>						
Barrowman	296/6		"	280/6		"
Labourer	266/6		"	250/6		"
Linenman	292/6		"	280/6		"
<u>Machinist -</u>						
Shaving	297/6 to 305/-		"	289/6 to 297/-		"
Splitting	311/6 to 321/6		"	303/6 to 313/6		"
Unhairing	296/6		"	288/6		"
Tableman	290/6 to 297/6		"	282/6 to 289/6		"
<u>BUILDING *</u>						
Bricklayer (Surface)	358/6		40	348/6		40
Bricklayer (Sewer & Tunnel)	371/8		"	359/2		"
Carpenter	365/-		"	345/6		"
Mason (Stone)	322/-		"	317/- (a)		"
Painter	346/8		"	345/-		"
Paperhanger	346/8		"	345/-		"
Signwriter	359/2		"	345/-		"
Plasterer (Surface)	355/3		"	347/10		"
Plumber	353/9		"	348/5		"
<u>Labourer -</u>						
Bricklayer's	295/10		"	282/6		"
Carpenter's	295/10		"	282/6		"
Concrete Worker	295/10		"	282/6		"
Earth Excavator	295/10		"	282/6		"
Gear Worker	306/10		"	292/2		"
Scaffold Hand	306/10		"	292/8		"
<u>RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAY SERVICES</u>						
<u>RAILWAYS</u>						
Engine Driver Loco -						
Steam, diesel electric or electric	362/- & 377/-		Ø	355/- & 370/-		Ø
Express, mail or passenger	392/-		Ø	385/-		Ø
Shunting Engine	317/- & 332/-		Ø	302/6 & 311/6		Ø
Fireman -						
Ordinary	279/6 & 291/6		Ø	272/6 & 287/6		Ø
Express, mail or passenger	302/-		Ø	295/-		Ø
Shunting Engine	263/- to 275/6		Ø	253/6 to 268/6		Ø
Guard -						
1st Class	302/- to 320/-		Ø	320/-		Ø
2nd Class	296/-		Ø	291/- to 313/-		Ø
Porter -	259/- to 268/-		Ø	252/6 to 283/-		Ø
Shunter -						
Head	354/6 to 380/-		+	..		+
Loading	312/6 to 338/6		+	305/6 to 331/6		+
Ordinary	275/- to 296/-		+	268/- to 289/-		+

\* Rates are weekly equivalents of hourly rates. They include allowances for leave, holidays, following the job etc.

(a) Rate for stonemason, not comparable with previous years when rate for carver (Building) was shown.

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rate of Wage	Hours	Rate of Wage	Hours
<u>RAILWAY AND TRAMWAY SERVICES (Contd.)</u>				
	s. d.		s. d.	
<u>RAILWAYS (Contd.)</u>				
Signalman -				
1st class	358/6	-	325/-	
2nd class	343/6	0	308/-	
3rd class	332/-	0	295/-	0
<u>TRAMWAYS -</u>				
Conductor -				
1st Year	265/6	40	260/-	40
2nd Year	260/6	"	274/6	"
Thereafter	230/6	"	274/6	"
Labourer	258/6	"	255/-	"
Track Repairer	266/- & 269/-	"	263/-	"
Motorman -				
1st Year	288/-	"	280/-	"
2nd Year	288/-	"	282/-	"
Thereafter	288/-	"	282/-	"
Pitman	290/6	"	286/-	"
+ 76 hours per fortnight. 0 80 hours per fortnight				
<u>TRANSPORT (OTHER)</u>				
<u>CARRYING MERCHANDISE -</u>				
Driver -				
1 horse	276/-	40	258/6	40
2 horses	283/-	"	271/-	"
Stable Hand	273/6	"	253/-	"
Motor Lorries & Wagons - 3 tons	297/-	"	280/6	"
3 tons but under 6 tons	301/- to 309/-	"	290/-	"
<u>WHARF LABOUR -</u>				
Skarf Labourer (per hour)	8/10		8/10	
<u>HOTELS, ETC.</u>				
<u>HOTELS -</u>				
Barman	283/-	40	275/-	40
Billiard Marker	263/-	"	255/-	"
Cook	273/- to 358/-	"	265/- to 350/-	"
Bar/Man	263/-	"	255/-	"
Kitchenman	263/-	"	255/-	"
Porter	263/-	"	255/-	"
Waiter	263/-	"	255/-	"
<u>HAIRDRESSING -</u>				
Hairstresser (men's)	295/- to 305/-	"	288/-	"
<u>GENERAL LABOUR</u>				
<u>FACTORY ENGINE DRIVING -</u>				
Engine Driver -				
1st Class	295/6 & 303/6	40	287/6 & 295/-	40
2nd Class	284/6 & 295/6	"	276/- & 287/6	"
Firer -				
1st Class	284/-	"	276/-	"
2nd Class	270/-	"	262/-	"
<u>MUNICIPAL -</u>				
Labourer	300/-	"	262/6	"
Street Sweeper	311/-	"	268/-	"
<u>SHOP ASSISTANTS -</u>				
Boot Salesman	295/-	"	287/-	"
Drapery Salesman	295/-	"	287/-	"
Furniture Salesman	295/-	"	291/-	"
Grocery Salesman	295/-	"	281/6	"
Hardware Salesman	295/-	"	287/-	"
Men's Clothing Salesman	295/-	"	287/-	"
<u>STORES AND POWERS -</u>				
Packer (General)	280/6 & 284/6	"	276/-	"
Storeman (General)	280/6 & 284/6	"	276/-	"

WEEKLY RATES & HOURS, WIFE & LBS. 30TH JUNE, 1955.

Industry and Occupation	SYDNEY		MELBOURNE	
	Rates of Wage		Rates of Wage	
	Hours		Hours	
	<u>FOOD</u>			
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Biscuit Making	40	184/-	40	195/9
Confectionery	"	186/-	"	191/-
	<u>CLOTHING &amp; TEXTILES</u>			
Bootmaking	40	199/-	40	199/-
Dressmaking	"	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-
Millinery	"	183/-	"	183/-
Shirt Making	"	183/-	"	183/-
Underclothing	"	183/- to 213/-	"	183/- to 213/-
<u>TAILORING - COATS -</u>				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	"	213/-	"	213/-
Trousers & Vest Hand	"	200/6	"	200/6
Tailoress	"	229/-	"	229/-
Adult Female	"	183/-	"	183/-
<u>TAILORING - REWASTE -</u>				
Coat Hand (Machinist)	"	203/-	"	203/-
Trousers & Vest Hand	"	198/-	"	198/-
Emmermer	"	229/-	"	229/-
Adult Female	"	183/-	"	183/-
<u>TEXTILE WORKING (WOOLLEN MILLS) -</u>				
Comb Minder	"	194/-	"	194/-
Darner & Mender	"	196/- & 199/-	"	196/- & 199/-
Warper	"	196/-	"	196/-
Washer (Loam)	"	199/-	"	199/-
Gillbox Minder	"	193/-	"	193/-
Other Adult	"	181/-	"	181/-
	<u>BOOKS, PRINTING, ETC.</u>			
<u>BOOKBINDING -</u>				
Folder	40	206/-	40	200/-
Cover	"	206/-	"	200/-
<u>CARDBOARD BOX -</u>				
Box maker	"	204/- to 210/6	"	193/- to 208/6
Other	"	191/6	"	183/6
<u>PRINTING -</u>				
Jobbing Office Assistant	"	206/-	"	201/-
	<u>HOTELS AND SHOPS, ETC.</u>			
<u>HOTELS -</u>				
Barnaid	40	219/6	40	273/6
Housemaid	"	199/-	"	189/6
Laundress	"	200/-	"	193/6
Waitress - Head	"	206/-	"	195/6
Waitress - Other	"	199/-	"	189/6
<u>RESTAURANTS -</u>				
Pantry Maid	"	189/6	"	187/6
Waitress	"	189/6	"	187/6
<u>CLERKS -</u>				
Cashiers (Shops)	"	214/-	"	219/6
Clerical Assistants	"	207/-	"	219/6
<u>SHOPS -</u>				
Book Saleswoman	"	214/- & 295/-	"	201/-
Drapery Saleswoman	"	214/- & 295/-	"	202/6 & 286/6
Fruit & Confectionery Saleswoman	"	214/-	"	196/6
Newsagent & Bookstall Saleswoman	"	214/-	"	185/- & 191/6